Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2235

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: USSR GRAIN CROP

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR G&F DIVISION, FAS

REF: STATE 11003

1. PRAVDA SEPTEMBER 20 CARRIED SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV'S SPEECH IN SOPHIA IN WHDC REFERENCE MADE TO THIS YEAR'S HARVEST IN USSR. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF PORTION ON AGRICULTURE:

"THIS YEAR, ON LARGE EXPANSES OF THE COUNTRY IS GROWING, IT CAN BE SAID, A GOOD HARVEST. IT IS TRUE THAT EVEN TODAY NATURE IS PRESENTING US WITH SURPRISES: IN MANY REGIONS OF THE USSR, HARVESTING IS GOING ON UNDER PROTRACTED, INTENSE RAINS. AT THIS TIME, OF COURSE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO NAME THE FINAL FIGURES. MUCH, ESPECIALLY IN EASTERN REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, IS LEFT TO BE DONE, IN ORDER TO HARVEST WITHOUT LOSSESS.... PEOPLE ARE NOT SPARING THEIR EFFORT, DESPITE THE WHIMS OF WEATHER, TO FULFILL THEIR DEBT.

YOU KNOW THAT THE WORKERS OF THE FIELDS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONS, DISTRICTS AD THE RSFSR MADE A COMMITMENT TO

SELL THE STAE NO LESS THAN THREE BILLION POODS OF GRAIN (49.14 MILLION METRIC TONS), WHILE THE WORKERS OF UKRAINE AND KZAKHSTAN NO LESS THAN ONE BILLION POODS (16.38 MILLION METRIC TONS). HIGH TARGETS WERE ALSO SET BY ALL OUR OTHER REPUBLICS. WE HOPE THAT THE TOTAL HARVEST WILL SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED THE LEVEL OF PAST YEARS."

2. COMMENT: THE "PAST YEARS" REFERRED TO IN BREZHNEV'S SPEECH ARE THE RECORD CRWS OF 1970 (186.8 MILLIONTONS) AND 1971 (QIQMW MILLION TONS). PERSISTANT REFERENCE TO BAD WEATHER BY THE PRESS, PRATICALLY FROM THE START OF HARVEST IN JULY, AS WELL AS BY BREZHNEV LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE FAVORABLE GROWING CONDITIONS, RAINS DURING THE ENTIRE HARVESTING PERIOD M34 .-'94 0ORTIONS OF SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCING AREAS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANTLY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST.

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